

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, reconsideration of the allowability of the pending claims is respectfully requested. Claims 1-23 are pending and under consideration.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

As indicated in the Office Action, a personal interview was conducted with the Examiner on November 3, 2006, wherein applicants explained the claimed invention and the recited claim language.

In particular, it was explained that the claimed speaker and the claimed handset are operable at the same time, with the handset performing the two way communication and the speaker outputting a sound of the handset communication as a one way communication, i.e., the output of the speaker is a one-way conversation since voices and sounds presented to the speakerphone speaker are not transmitted back through to the conversation members, while voices and sounds presented to the handset would be transmitted back through to the conversation members.

In addition, it was also pointed out that the output of the speaker was claimed as being blocked until the dialing of the conversation is completed, in combination with the handset being off-hook and the one-way speakerphone operation selection key signal being input.

Thus, as explained, a conversation may be initiated through a dialing and while the enabling of the handset's transmit-receive line is not limited during a dialing phase, the corresponding one-way speakerphone operation of the speaker is limited, i.e., not transmitted through the speaker, until completion of the dialing.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully acknowledge the outstanding Office Action's withdrawal of the previous rejections.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

Claims 1-12, 17-20, and 22-23 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kingen et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,496,799. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of review, independent claim 1 sets forth:

"A communication apparatus having a one-way speakerphone operation, comprising:
a handset connected to the communication apparatus by a transmit-receive line, for a

two-way communication operation, wherein the transmit-receive line is enabled when the handset of the communication apparatus is off-hook;

a speaker, outputting a sound of the handset communication, to implement the one-way speakerphone operation;

an input key part comprising a selection key to select the one-way speakerphone operation and a plurality of dial keys for a dialing of the communication apparatus; and

a central control device controlling the one-way speakerphone operation of the speaker; wherein a conversation signal is transmitted through the speaker in response to the handset being off-hook, the one-way speakerphone operation selection key signal being input, and the dialing having being completed."

The Office Action has indicated that Kingen et al. discloses all feature of independent claims 1, 6, 21, 22, and 23. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In particular, the Office Action has interpreted col. 1, lines 35-49, of Kingen et al. as disclosing a handset connected a communication apparatus for a two-way communication operation, wherein a corresponding transmit-receive line is enabled when the handset is off-hook.

Similarly, the Office Action has interpreted col. 3, lines 5-18, of Kingen et al. as disclosing a speaker outputting a sound of the handset communication, to implement a one-way speakerphone operation "(one-way speakerphone operation implies muting of Rx or Tx)."

Thereafter, the Office Action further relies upon keypad K1 to correspond to a claimed input key for a selection key for the one-way speakerphone operation and a plurality of dial keys for a dialing operation.

Lastly, the Office Action has interpreted col. 1, line 62, through col. 2, line 21, col. 2, line 35-col. 5, line 7, and claims 5 and 7, of Kingen et al. as disclosing a conversation signal being transmitted through the speaker in response to the handset being off-hook, the one-way speakerphone operation selection key signal being input, and dialing having been completed.

However, it is respectfully the above portions of Kingen et al. have been misunderstood.

Here, Kingen et al. at least does not disclose separate the operation or a device related to a correlated same one-way phone operation and coexistent two-way phone operation, nor the Office Action purported controlling of the claimed one-way communication based upon completion of a dialing operation.

Rather, Kingen et al. merely describes an improvement in a touch tone operation in a then existing dialing system of a phone that may have separate handsfree and handset modes. The

improvement includes muting of transmission (Tx) and reception (Rx) leads for the transmitter and receiver during depressing of a button on the keyboard K1. This improvement is performed in both the handsfree and handset embodiments.

In addition, the operation of Kingen et al is based upon depressions of single keys for separate tone signals. Thus, upon completion of the depressing of any one key the corresponding muting of the Rx or Tx also ceases. As stated in col. 3, lines 62-63, of Kingen et al.: "When no dialing is taking place, signals between the line and H/F hybrid are not to be muted."

This operation of muting Tx and Rx during the depressing of each key is further explained in U.S. Paten No. 4,406,926, to Duncan, the application of which is cited in Kingen et al., which explains the same operation within a standard handset mode operation of a phone. See Kingen et al. in col. 2, lines 53-68.

Thus, Kingen et al. merely sets forth a system of further implementing the invention of Duncan by modifying the same to include a similar muting for a handsfree mode. In this regard, Kingen et al. maintains that "[t]he confidence tone muting resistor R13 mutes any a.c. signals such as the generated DTMF tones during the button depression or dialing condition. The switching circuit is protected against surges both in the off hook state of the handset mode and in the handsfree mode with the hookswitch off hook or on hook."

Thus, the muting operation suggested and disclosed by Kingen et al. is performed regardless of whether a handsfree mode or a handset mode is implemented.

Kingen et al. further does not disclose or suggest any coexistent operation of the handsfree mode and handset mode, and does not disclose or suggest the claimed two-way communication operation of the handset and the one-way communication operation of the handsfree/speakerphone operation.

Thus, though Kingen et al. does show separate handset and handsfree operations, both are described as being for two-way communications. The cited portions of Kingen et al. do not disclose or suggest otherwise.

Similarly, the Office Action's reliance on portions of Kingen et al. to disclose a one-way operation cannot be considered reasonable because the muting of the Rx or Tx is preferably for both Rx and Tx in Kingen et al., and further because these muting operations are not performed in relationship with the communication being performed in the handset. For example, independent claim 1 set forth that the speaker outputs a sound of the handset communication. In Kingen et al., regardless of any muting of the Rx and Tx, the handset is not active when the handsfree mode is

performed, i.e., the speaker for the speakerphone operation would not be outputting "a sound of the handset communication" when the handsfree operation is active and if the muting was not be performed.

Lastly, Kingen et al. cannot be considered as basing the transmission of the conversation signal through the speaker upon "the handset being off-hook, the one-way speakerphone operation selection key signal being input, and the dialing having being completed."

In Kingen et al., any dialing operation completion is not the basis for ceasing the muting operation. Rather, each separate key depression cessation is the determining factor for ceasing the muting operation. The term "dialing" must be considered as being the operation of all depressions for connecting, i.e., in Kingen et al., dialing would not be completed upon the depression of a single key, or the following key, noting that the muting operation would have been ceased between the two key depressions. Rather, multiple muting operations are sequentially performed regardless of the completion of the dialing operation. The claimed completion of dialing is not the same as the single depression of a key; multiple sequential depressions are necessary for completion of a dialing.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Kingen et al. has been misinterpreted.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 6, 21, 22 and 23 is respectfully requested. At least for similar reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims depending from independent claims 1, 6, 21, 22 and 23 are also in allowable condition.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 15-16, and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Kingen et al., in view of Lipton et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,991,398, and claims 13-14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Kingen et al., in view of Parks et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,746. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that none of Lipton et al. and/or Parks et al. disclose or suggest the above deficient features of independent claims 1, 6, 21, 22, and 23. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that none of Kingen et al., Lipton et al., and/or Parks et al. disclose or suggest together or alone at least the all the above features of each of independent claims 1, 6, 21, 22, and 23.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

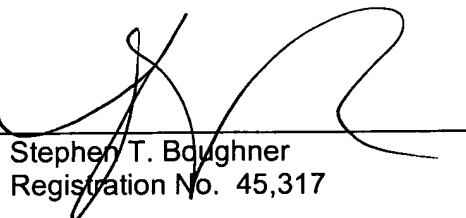
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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